GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6726
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
RESEARCH SCHOLARS
Das Shri Bhakta Charan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any statistics of the students involved in research projects in different science streams to promote scientific enrichment in the country;

(b) if so, whether the present situation is upto the mark according to the need of the nation;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of research scholars the country has produced per year during the last three years, institution and stream-wise;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the number of scholars to fill the gap, if any; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the budgetary allocation made for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (c): As per the annual publication "Statistics of Higher and Technical Education" of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of M. Phil. and Ph. D. students enrolled in higher education in the country during 2008-09 and 2009-10 (Provisional) is 81,393 and 92,211 respectively. As per the provisional figures of the All India Survey on Higher Education, the total number of M. Phil. and Ph. D. students enrolled in the higher education system in the country during 2010-11 is 103,156 out of which 25,312 are in M. Phil. and 77844 in Ph. D. The total number of students enrolled in Science streams of M. Phil. and Ph. D. during 2010-11 is 30447 and within Science streams, most of the students are from Chemistry (21%), Physics (12%) and Mathematics (10%) disciplines.

(d) to (e): The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides a Research Fellowship for Science Meritorious Students under the Basic Science Research programme in order to provide opportunities to meritorious candidates to undertake advanced studies and research leading to Ph.D. degrees in Sciences. The UGC is allocating minimum 5 Research Fellowships and maximum 20 Research Fellowships every year to Departmental Research Support, Special Assistance Programme (SAP) for Science Departments of Universities to increase the number of Scholars. Till date, 6754 fellowships have been allocated to SAP/Non-SAP departments and 4485 JRFs are in position. During the period 2007-08 to 2012-13, a total grant of Rs. 168.51 crore has been released to these fellows.

The Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-doctoral research fellowship is an important enabling step in grooming young researchers for launching an academic/research career. This is a transition phase from a largely supervisor directed student at doctoral level to an independent researcher for leadership position, particularly in academia. Till date, 928 PDFs have been awarded and 452 PDFs are in position. About 300 candidates have submitted final report after completing the tenure of three years. During the period 2007-08 to 2012-13, the total grant of Rs. 48.76 crore has been released to these fellows.

The UGC also provides the financial support to the teachers under Major and Minor Research Projects Scheme who are permanent/regular, working/retired in the Universities/Colleges/ Institutions which are included under Section 2(f) & 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 to carry out research in their areas of specialization.

The UGC provides financial assistance in respect of selected candidates belonging to the SC/ST categories for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D research and higher research in Universities/ Institutions/Colleges on full time and regular basis in India under the scheme of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST candidates and the Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates. Apart from this, the UGC also provides financial assistance in respect of selected candidates belonging to Minority Communities viz. (1) Buddhist, (2) Christian, (3) Muslim (4) Parsi and (5) Sikh for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. research on regular and full time basis in Universities/Institutions/Colleges in India under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students.

In addition, other Ministries/ Departments/ institutions such as the Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy also implement schemes and make budgetary allocation to promote Research and Development in higher education in their respective fields.